

Message Text

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S/S MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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UNCLAS STATE 299622 TOSEC 320131

FOR HARTMAN

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TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY SIMON'S PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWING
ANDREOTTI MEETING

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY SIMON'S PRESS STATEMENT
DECEMBER 7, 1976:

2: QUOTE: SECRETARY SIMON, FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH PRIME
MINISTER ANDREOTTI, EXPRESSED HIS JUDGMENT THAT THE
PROGRAM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS DESIGNED WILL LEAD TO
THE STABILIZATION AND EARLY RESTORATION OF ORDERLY GROWTH
OF THE ITALIAN ECONOMY. IN PARTICULAR, HE NOTED THAT THE
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ONLY CREATED A WELL-DESIGNED
PROGRAM BUT HAS ALSO MADE EXTENSIVE PROGRESS TOWARD THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT PROGRAM. SECRETARY SIMON SAID THAT
HE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE COMPLETION OF SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND CONCERNING
ECONOMIC AND FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITALY.

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SECRETARY SIMON ALSO COMMENTED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE

DEVELOPMENT IN RECENT MONTHS OF A BROADER CONSENSUS AMONG THE ITALIAN PEOPLE IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO THE ECONOMIC SITUATION.

SECRETARY SIMON SAID HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD, IN THE WEEKS AHEAD, BE EXPLORING WAYS IN WHICH US SUPPORT COULD BE MADE TANGIBLE IN ORDER TO ASSIST ITALY DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS ECONOMIC PROGRAM. ROBINSON

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